



## **Lt. Governor Skillman: January brings new beginnings**

It's hard to believe that the first month of the new year has come to a close. The month not only marked the start of a new year, but the start of a new legislative session for our state, the inauguration of statewide officials and a new president for our country. As I take a look back, there's so much we can take pride in as Hoosiers and so much we have to look forward to.

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### **Statewide Officials Take Office**

Hundreds of Hoosiers filled the Statehouse to witness Governor Daniels, Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett and Attorney General Greg Zoeller and I take the oath of office. This inauguration was scaled back compared to the previous inauguration, but the same excitement was still in the air.

It was an honor to again stand with my partner, Governor Daniels, and accept the trust of the people of Indiana for another four years. [Please visit my Web site to read my pledge to Hoosiers.](#) I'm proud of the progress we have made together with Hoosiers during the last four, but I know there is much more work to be done.



***Lt. Gov. Skillman gives her Inaugural Address after being sworn in as Indiana's 50th Lt. Governor of Indiana.***

The next day the Governor outlined our administration's agenda for the legislative session during his State of the State address. I stood next to him as he committed to an honestly balanced budget, gains in public education, permanent property tax caps, and local government reform. There is certainly a lot to be excited about, but there are also many challenges to overcome. We will work together to see success through.

### **Indiana Legislators Take Off Running**

As I lowered the gavel in the Senate for the beginning of the 116th Indiana General Assembly, I felt like I might be firing the gun at a race track. There's an eagerness to get to work, and there is a tremendous amount of work to be done. Among other things, legislators have a budget to pass, and I am confident that we will give Hoosiers a third consecutive honestly balanced budget. Our number one responsibility is Indiana's economic health, and we cannot lose sight of that.

To view a detailwd list of our priorities, [visit the Governor's Web site](#). I have every confidence in the fine men and women of the Indiana General Assembly, and I look forward to working with them as Indiana faces new challenges and new beginnings.

### **Hoosiers Celebrate the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

In the historic Madame Walker Theater, I joined hundreds of Hoosiers to celebrate a very special Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The inauguration of President Obama lent an electric air of excitement to the crowd, and every word about the life and work of Dr. King was heavy with the history we witnessed in Washington. No matter who Hoosiers voted for in November, we have one president, and this year, our president represents the realization of Dr. King's finest dreams.



***Lt. Gov. Skillman honors the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. with Hoosiers in Indianapolis on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.***

It was my honor to speak and remember Dr. King. He understood the great importance of an individual life. He understood that the only reasons his words mattered, was because people matter. He saw a country on a path to self-destruction, one man and one woman at a time. And he took the opportunities available

to him, one man, to help fix what was so terribly wrong. I am proud of what we have achieved in Indiana, and I look forward to a future of opportunity for all Hoosiers.

### **Indiana Women Realtors Help Move Indiana Forward**

I had the pleasure of spending some time with the Association of Women Realtors in January. This is an energetic and motivated group that is working hard to get Indiana's housing market up and running at full speed again. I shared with them a little bit about what state government is doing to help get the momentum going, including the ongoing work on property tax reform.

I also shared the state's efforts in preventing home foreclosures. The Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network served nearly 20,000 Hoosiers last year. Through this

unique partnership with community organizations, housing agencies, government agencies, lenders and statewide associations, a toll-free helpline and Web site was established. The hotline, 1-877-GET-HOPE, averages about 70 calls a day and the Web site, [www.877gethope.org](http://www.877gethope.org), gets more than 16,000 hits per day.

I'm proud of the work our Indiana Realtors are doing. We understand the challenges of the job. I'm confident that together we will continue to help Hoosiers realize the dream of owning a home, while moving Indiana forward.

### **Indiana Agriculture Continues to Provide New Opportunities**

In January I met with two groups who are helping to move Indiana forward through agriculture. I met with Indiana Farm Bureau County Presidents and a Purdue University agriculture class. Indiana Farm Bureau has been a tremendous partner, and I thank them for facilitating the work of the Indiana Agriculture Regulatory Structure Task Force.

For more than a year now, I have charged a new task force to look into how Indiana agriculture was being regulated by state and local agencies. The Indiana Agriculture Regulatory Structure Task Force met regularly from December 2007 to December 2008, and deliberated to reach consensus in their findings and recommendations. The report

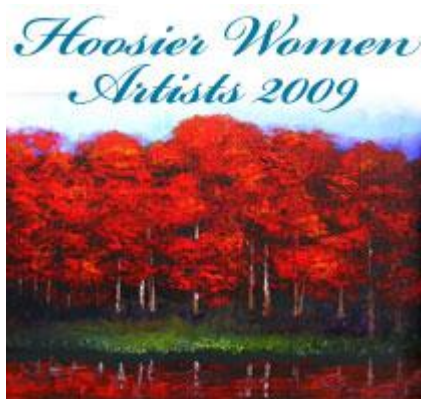


***Lt. Gov. Skillman meets with students after serving as guest lecturer in their Purdue University agriculture class.***

found that for the most part agencies are doing a good job. There are a few areas needing attention, and I look forward to getting to work on them to improve Indiana's agriculture industry for all Hoosiers. For the full report, please visit my Web site at [www.lg.in.gov](http://www.lg.in.gov).

### **The 2009 Hoosier Women Artists Competition Begins**

Every year in March the country observes Women's History Month, honoring the unique role women have played in shaping our country. I kicked off my third annual Celebration of Hoosier Women Artists competition to highlight female artists from around the state.



***Applications for the Lt. Gov.'s***

The 2007 and 2008 Hoosier Women Artists competitions were a great success. I look forward to this year's contest, and honoring more Hoosier women artists. There are many talented women artists, and it is a pleasure to share their talent this with the many who visit the Statehouse each year.

The works will be on display in my office, located in the Indiana Statehouse, through 2009. To schedule a tour of the

***Hoosier Women Artist competition are  
now being accepted for 2009.***

Statehouse and the Lt. Governor's office, contact the Statehouse Tour Office at (317) 233-5293. For more information on competition guidelines and dates, please visit my Web site at [www.lg.in.gov](http://www.lg.in.gov).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Skillman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Interested in learning more about the work of the Daniels/Skillman  
Administration? Sign up [HERE](#) for e-mail updates!**

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 **FORWARD TO  
A FRIEND**